## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE DIVISION

In re:		Chapter 11
SD-CHARLOTTE, LLC, et	t al., <sup>1</sup>	Case No. 20-30149-LTB
	Debtors.	Jointly Administered

## EX PARTE APPLICATION TO EMPLOY SHUMAKER, LOOP & KENDRICK, LLP AS LOCAL CO-COUNSEL FOR THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS

The Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") of SD-Charlotte, LLC, et al., (the "Debtors") moves the Court for the entry of an order pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 328 and 1103 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Rules 2014(a) and 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), and Rules 2014-1 and 9013-1(f)(8) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of North Carolina (the "Local Rules"), authorizing the Committee to retain and employ Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP ("SLK") as local co-counsel to the Committee in the above-captioned jointly administered Chapter 11 cases (the "Cases") effective as of February 25, 2020. In support of this application, the Committee respectfully represents as follows:

#### JURISDICTION, BACKGROUND, AND BASIS FOR RELIEF

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. Consideration of this application is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2). Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors, together with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are SD-Charlotte, LLC (7237); RTHT Investments, LLC (2540); SD Restaurant Group, LLC (0331); SD-Missouri, LLC (8294); and Southern Deli Holdings, LLC (9425).

- 2. On February 7, 2020 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of title 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 3. The Debtors continue to control their businesses and manage their property as debtors in possession pursuant to §§ 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 4. On February 20, 2020, this Court entered an order appointing the Committee. [Doc. 87]. The Committee is comprised of the following parties: (a) National Retail Properties, Inc., (b) Performance Food Group, Inc., (c) STORE Capital Corporation, and (d) The Merchants Company dba Merchants Foodservice.
- 5. On February 20, 2020, the Committee selected Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP ("PSZ&J") as counsel to the Committee in the Cases.
- 6. On February 25, 2020, the Committee selected SLK to serve as local co-counsel to the Committee in the Cases.
- 7. The statutory predicates for the relief requested herein are 11 U.S.C. §§ 328 and 1103, Bankruptcy Rules 2014 and 2016, and Local Rules 2014-1 and 9013-1(f)(8).

#### RETENTION OF SLK

8. The Committee seeks to retain SLK as local co-counsel effective as of February 25, 2020 because of SLK's extensive experience and knowledge: (a) in the field of debtors' and creditors' rights and business reorganizations under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, (b) in commercial and bankruptcy litigation, and (c) in practicing before this Court. In addition, the Committee seeks to retain SLK due to its proximity to the Court, and its ability to respond quickly to emergency hearings and other emergency matters in this Court in a cost-effective manner.

- 9. The attorneys of SLK are duly admitted to practice in the Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of North Carolina.
- 10. In addition to SLK, the Committee, by separate application, is seeking to retain the law firm of PSZ&J as lead counsel and co-counsel to the Committee. The Committee submits that it is essential to employ both of these firms in these cases. PSZ&J and SLK have discussed a division of responsibilities regarding representation of the Committee and will make every effort to avoid and/or minimize duplication of effort in these Cases between their firms.

#### SERVICES TO BE RENDERED

- 11. The professional services that SLK is to render as co-counsel to the Committee include, without limitation:
  - (a) Assisting, advising, and representing the Committee and lead counsel in consultations with the Debtors and other parties in interest regarding the administration of these Cases;
  - (b) Representing the Committee at hearings to be held before this Court and communicating with the Committee and lead counsel regarding the matters heard and issues raised as well as the decisions and considerations of this Court:
  - (c) Assisting and advising the Committee and lead counsel in analyzing the Debtors' assets and liabilities, investigating the extent and validity of liens and participating in and reviewing any proposed asset sales, any asset dispositions, financing arrangements and cash collateral stipulations or proceedings;
  - (d) Assisting and advising the Committee and lead counsel in any manner relevant to reviewing and determining the Debtors' rights and obligations under leases and other executory contracts;
  - (e) Assisting and advising the Committee and lead counsel in investigating the acts, conduct, assets, liabilities, and financial condition of the Debtors, the Debtors' operations and the desirability of the continuance of any portion of those operations, and any other matters relevant to these Chapter 11 Cases;

- (f) Assisting and advising the Committee in its participation in the negotiation, formulation, and drafting of a plan of liquidation;
- (g) Assisting and advising the Committee in understanding its powers and its duties under the Bankruptcy Code and the Bankruptcy Rules and in performing other services as are in the interests of those represented by the Committee:
- (h) Assisting and advising the Committee in the analysis, estimation and evaluation of claims and any litigation matters;
- (i) Assisting and advising the Committee and lead counsel in preparing appropriate pleadings and proposed orders as may be required in support of positions taken by the Committee; and
- (j) Providing such other services to the Committee as may be necessary in these cases.
- 12. SLK has agreed to act on behalf of, and to render such services to, the Committee, on the terms set forth below.

#### **CONNECTIONS TO PARTIES IN INTEREST**

- 13. To the best of the Committee's knowledge, and except as set forth in the Declaration of David H. Conaway (the "<u>Declaration</u>") attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>, the Committee has determined that SLK does not hold any interest adverse to the Committee or the Debtors' estates, and, while employed by the Committee, will not represent any person having an adverse interest in connection with the Cases.
- 14. Furthermore, while Section 1103(b) of the Bankruptcy Code does not incorporate the general "disinterestedness" standard set forth in section 327(a) of the Bankruptcy Code with respect to representation of the Committee, the Committee believes that SLK is nonetheless a "disinterested person" as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code in that the firm, its members, counsel, and associates:
  - (a) are not creditors, equity security holders, or insiders of the Debtors;

- (b) are not and were not, within two years before the date of the filing of the Debtors' chapter 11 petition, directors, officers or employees of the Debtors; and
- (c) do not have any interest materially adverse to the interests of the Debtors' estates or of any class of creditors or equity security holders by reason of any direct or indirect relationship to, connection with, or interest in, the Debtors as specified in subparagraph (a) or (b) of this paragraph, or for any other reason.
- 15. Accordingly, the Committee has determined that (i) SLK is a "disinterested person" within the meaning of section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, (ii) SLK's representation of the Committee is permissible under section 1103(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, and (iii) SLK's services are necessary and in the best interests of the Committee and the Debtors' estates, enabling the Committee to carry out its duties owed.

#### PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION

- 16. Pursuant to section 328(a) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Committee may employ SLK on any reasonable terms and conditions. The Committee submits that the most reasonable terms and conditions are those charged by SLK to the Committee and other clients on an hourly basis in a competitive market for legal services. Therefore, the Committee and SLK have agreed that SLK shall be paid, subject to the approval of this Court, its customary hourly rates for services SLK provides that are in effect from time to time, subject to periodic adjustment, and shall be reimbursed according to SLK's customary reimbursement policies and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules, and any orders relevant thereto, for all services performed and expenses incurred from and after the proposed employment date.
- 17. The Committee has been advised by SLK that its hourly rates, as of February 25, 2020 are as follows: (a) David H. Conaway \$695.00, (b) Ronald D.P. Bruckmann \$490.00, and

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- (c) Cheryl P. Elgin \$290.00. The Committee further understands that the hourly rates set forth above are subject to periodic adjustments to reflect established billing practices and procedures as well as economic and other conditions, which adjustments typically occur on January 1 of each year. The Committee consents to such ordinary rate increases.
- 18. In addition to the hourly rates previously referenced, SLK customarily charges clients for actual and necessary costs of support services the firm provides in connection with a representation, including, without limitation, court reporters, transcripts, witness fees, computerized research, filing fees, photocopying charges, long distance telephone calls, facsimile transmissions, messengers, courier mail, secretarial overtime, temporary services, travel, lodging, and catering for meetings. SLK will charge the cost of these items in a manner and at rates consistent with charges generally made to the firm's clients.
- 19. SLK has agreed to be employed by the Committee at the firm's customary, hourly rates for comparable matters, including paralegal services, and understands that the firm's compensation is to be paid and the expenses and costs are to be reimbursed pursuant to orders of this Court and are subject to the Court's approval and/or pursuant to any administrative procedures established by Order of the Court.
- 20. SLK understands and acknowledges that all amounts paid to SLK for compensation and reimbursement of expenses in connection with these chapter 11 case are subject to final allowance by this Court. SLK therefore intends to apply to this Court for periodic allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with applicable provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules and any orders relevant thereto for all services performed and expenses incurred after the proposed employment date.

- 21. SLK has not received any compensation from the Committee or its members and is not holding a retainer in connection with this matter.
- 22. Attached to this application as <u>Exhibit B</u> is a proposed Order authorizing the engagement of SLK.

#### **NOTICE**

23. This application is being submitted on an *ex parte* basis pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(f). Upon entry of an order granting the relief requested herein, the Committee will provide notice of entry of the order in accordance with the Bankruptcy Rules, and any party in interest shall be entitled to request that the Court reconsider the relief granted within fourteen (14) days of service of notice of the order.

WHEREFORE, the Committee respectfully requests that an Order be entered authorizing it to retain Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP to represent it as local co-counsel in these Cases, and providing the Committee such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: March 4, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,

THE OFFICIAL COMMITTEE OF UNSECURED CREDITORS OF SD-CHARLOTTE, LLC, ET AL.

Rv

Performance Food Group, Inc.

**Brad Boe** 

Solely in its capacity as Chair of the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of SD-Charlotte, LLC, et al., and not in any other capacity

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on March 6, 2020, the foregoing was served on all parties included on the attached Master Service List in accordance with the Order Establishing Notice Procedures entered by the Court on February 11, 2020 (Docket No. 47), either by (i) the Court's CM/ECF system or (ii) by U.S. Mail.

/s/ David H. Conaway
David H. Conaway

# Master Service List As of March 4, 2020

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Attn: James H. Henderson	O udo	5	Attn: CEO/President	1451 47th Street	308 N Locust Street	85 Broad Street	Cody R Loughidge		1820 Avenue M		er Savov	(0.00)		Attn: Amy Cheng		Vesilo		PU Box 2576			One Atlantic Center	444 West Lake Street, Suite 900		Suite 1100	er			160 Pearl Street, 5th Floor	Attn: John H. Capitano			One Penn Plaza, Suite 4530	1000 N West Street, Suite 1200	1400 16th Street, Suite 400	Attn: Shai Schmidt & Adam L Shiff		0 - 1	SAZ GLEENWICH AVEILUE, SUITE Z	PO Box 1351	PO Box 475	Attn: C. Kevin Kobbe		600 Fairview Koad	450 S. Orange Avenue, Suite 900	PO Box 1168	Edwards	r & Shirley S.	Attn: David H. Conaway & Ronald	D.P. Bruckmann		323 Sunny Isles Blvd, Suite 501	١.	950 East Paces Ferry Road, NE	Attn: David M. Schilli	8377 E Hartford Dr	Attn: Thomas G. Hooper		8377 E Hartford Drive 1100 Edwards Street
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1810 Wynnton Road, LLC	Advantage II Incorporated 11 C	Savaniago II noo polated, FEO	Advantage Platform Services, Inc.	A.l Equity Group LLC	Amir Equipment Finance Inc	ADD Finding 110	APP Finding 11.0	APP Funding 11.0	BMF Capital, LLC	BMF Capital, LLC	Capital	Bridge Funding Gmun Inc	Dridge Funding Gloup, Inc.	Bridge Funding Group, Inc.	Bridge Funding Group, IIIc.	Dinge raining Group, me.		Corporation Service Co, as Representative	CI Corporation System	Dimension runding, LLC	DLA Fiper LLF	JLA Piper LLP	EBF Partners, LLC	EBF Partners, LLC	Edward Don & Company	EIN CAP, Inc.		EIN CAP, Inc.	FTS Berewick LLC	Gatsios Living Trust dated November 11, 2011		Itria Ventures LLC	Itria Ventures LLC	Itria Ventures LLC	Itria Ventures LLC		Itria Ventures, LLC	Mantis Funding II C	Marchants Food Service	Missouri Department of Revenue	MOD Super Fast Pizza, LLC and MOD Super	Fast Pizza Franchising, LLC	MOD Super Fast Pizza, LLC and MOD Super Fast Pizza Franchising. LLC	National Retail Properties, Inc.	North Carolina Department of Revenue	NWWP LP	Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors	Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors		Performance Food Group, Inc	Region Capital	Royal Business Group LLC	Securities & Exchange Commission	SKI Holding Company, SKI Operating Company, Sonic Franchising LLC and Sonic	STORE Capital Corporation	STORE Capital Corporation and SVCN 1, LLC		STORE Master Funding III, LLC The Merchants Company d/b/a Merchants

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Master Service List As of March 4, 2020



City State Zip Country Telephone Fax Number Email Address	704-375-8488   704-375-8487   fparrish@lawyercarolina.com			shelley_abel@ncwba.uscourts.gov		
Zip Cc	28203	84020	84111	28202	19101-7346	30524
State	NC	UT 8		NC		3 00
City	Charlotte	Draper	Salt Lake City UT	Charlotte	Philadelphia PA	Fort Collins CO 80524
Address 2	1001 Morehead Square Drive				PO Box 7346	
Address 1	Attn: Felton E. Parrish	1111 Draper Parkway, Suite 200	201 South Main Street, Suite 1800	402 W. Trade Suite, Suite 200	Attn: Centralized Insolvency Op	131 East Lincoln Avenue, Suite C
Attention	c/o Hull & Chandler, PA	Attn: Customer Service	c/o Parson Behle & Latimer	Attn: Shelley K. Abel	c/o Internal Revenue Service	
Name	The Merchants Company d/b/a Merchants Foodservice	TVT 2.0, LLC	TVT 2.0, LLC	US Bankruptcy Administrator	US Department of the Treasury	Yaron Goldman